

New AS/A Level Biology

H021 and H421 replacing 3881 and 7881

Information for OCR centres transferring to **new specifications for first teaching in September 2008**

This document maps the current A Level Biology specification to the new specification for first teaching in September 2008. It includes information on the changes, support available and an outline of the new specification. It is intended to help ease the transition for Heads of Department and Teachers involved in the teaching of Biology.

The full specification is available online along with a short questionnaire enabling you to share your comments on the specification and help shape the materials developed to support it. For more information including answers to frequently asked questions visit www.ocr.org.uk/14-19alevels

Current specification – mapping the changes

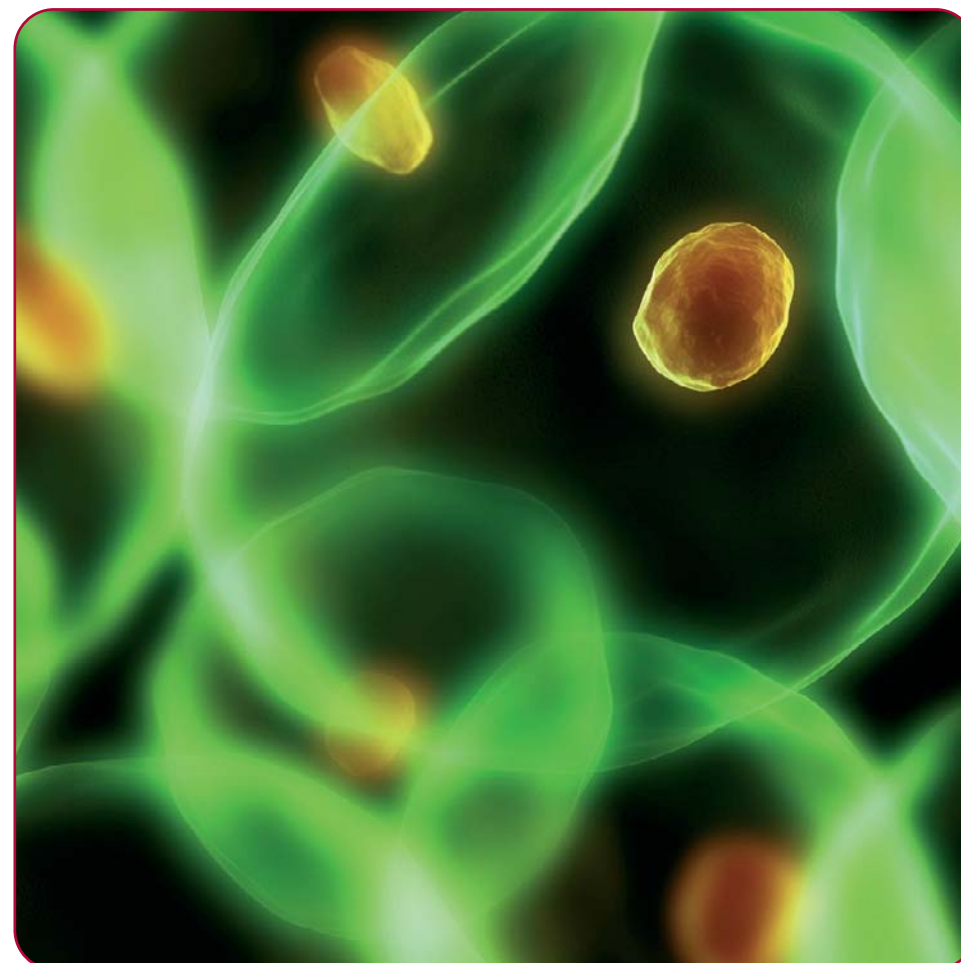
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Outline specification for first teaching September 2008

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QCA have stipulated that:

- Number of units required to achieve GCE in Biology remains at six
- Coursework is retained as controlled assessment
- Stretch and Challenge style questions to be introduced into A2 assessment.



Mapping the changes to the A Level Biology specification for first teaching September 2008

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Existing specification						
	Current unit title	Unit code	What remains the same?	What is changing?	Why is it changing?	Guidance
AS	Biology Foundation	2801 Mandatory 30% (AS) 15% (A Level) 1hr written exam		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduction in amount of content. Updated content. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allows centres maximum opportunity to enter candidates in January. To make room for Transport content in the new specification. 	
AS	Human Health and Disease	2802 Mandatory 30% (AS) 15% (A Level) 1hr written exam				
	Transport/ Experimental Skills 1	2803 Candidates take either components 2803/01 and 2803/02 or 2803/01 and 2803/03		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Content moved to F211 and F212. 		
	Transport	2803/01 Mandatory 20% (AS) 10% (A Level) 45 min written exam				
AS	Coursework 1	2803/02 Optional 20% (AS) 10% (A Level) Coursework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coursework requirement remains but under controlled assessment conditions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current scheme is disappearing, to be replaced with new controlled assessment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> QCA requirements and the need to reduce the amount of assessment teachers have. 	
	Practical examination 1	2803/03 Optional 20% (AS) 10% (A Level) 1hr 30min practical exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No longer offered. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No Practical exam. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> QCA rules require Practical Skills to be internally assessed. 	
A2	Central concepts	2804 Mandatory 15% (A Level) 1hr 30min written exam		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduction in amount of content. Updated content. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allows centres maximum opportunity to enter candidates in January. 	

Existing specification		What remains the same?	What is changing?	Why is it changing?	Guidance
Current unit title	Unit code				
Options in Biology					
Growth, Development and Reproduction	2805 Candidates take one component from 2805/01 to 2805/05				
Applications of Genetics	2805/01 Optional 15% (A Level) 1hr 30min written exam				
Environmental Biology	2805/02 Optional 15% (A Level) 1hr 30min written exam				
Microbiology and Biotechnology	2805/03 Optional 15% (A Level) 1hr 30min written exam				
Mammalian Physiology and Behaviour.	2805/04 Optional 15% (A Level) 1hr 30min written exam				
Unifying Concepts in Biology/ Experimental Skills 2	2805/05 Optional 15% (A Level) 1hr 30min written exam				
Unifying Concepts in Biology	2806 Candidates take either components 2806/01 and 2806/02 or 2806/01 and 2806/03				
	2806/01 Mandatory 10% (A Level) 1hr 15min written exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No longer offered. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Synoptic assessment is now incorporated fully into new units F214, F215 and F216. 		

Existing specification					
Current unit title	Unit code	What remains the same?	What is changing?	Why is it changing?	Guidance
Coursework 2	2806/02 Optional 10% (A Level) Coursework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coursework requirement remains but under controlled assessment conditions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current scheme is disappearing, to be replaced with new controlled assessment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> QCA requirements and the need to reduce the amount of assessment teachers have. 	
Practical Examination 2	2806/03 Optional 10% (A Level) 1hr 30min practical exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No longer offered. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No Practical exam. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> QCA rules require Practical Skills to be internally assessed. 	

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For AS GCE all three units are mandatory. For Advanced GCE all six units are mandatory.



	New unit title	New unit code	Benefits to me and my learners	Support
AS	Cells, Exchange and Transport	F211 Mandatory 30% (AS) 15% (A Level) 1hr written exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides continuity for current users. Unit is shorter to allow centres maximum opportunity to enter candidates in January. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comprehensive resources from Heinemann. INSET programme. Schemes of Work for guidance. Sample Assessment Materials.
AS	Molecules, Biodiversity, Food and Health	F212 Mandatory 50% (AS) 25% (A Level) 1hr 45min written exam		
AS	Practical Skills in Biology 1	F213 Mandatory 20% (AS) 10% (A Level) Internal assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Candidates choose one from three, OCR set, practical based tasks from each of three task types: Qualitative, Quantitative and Evaluative. Centres access tasks and mark schemes from OCR secure website. Carried out at a time convenient to the centre, under controlled conditions. Hierarchical assessment no longer required. 	
A2	Communication, Homeostasis and Energy	F214 Mandatory 15% (A Level) 1hr written exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides continuity for current users. Unit is shorter to allow centres maximum opportunity to enter candidates in January. Stretch & Challenge question types included. 	
A2	Control, Genomes and Environment	F215 Mandatory 25% (A Level) 1hr 45min written exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stretch & Challenge question types included. 	
	Practical Skills in Biology 2	F216 Mandatory 10% (A Level) Internal assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Candidates choose one from three, OCR set, practical based tasks from each of three task types: Qualitative, Quantitative and Evaluative. Centres access tasks and mark schemes from OCR secure website. Carried out at a time convenient to the centre, under controlled conditions. Hierarchical assessment no longer required. 	

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